

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 3, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

To achieve this control, provision has been made for a method as indicated at the start, in which use is made, as a basic agent, of a highly basic calcic compound that is treated to retard the increase in pH of the medium as soon as this compound is added up to the end of the flocculation, the pH then being able to continue this rise in the sludge, preferably even after dewatering of the treated sludge (see ~~WO-00/4527~~ WO-00/47527)

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 8, line 11 with the following amended paragraph.

The invention also concerns dewatered sludge comprising a calcaro-magnesian compound content complying with the formula $x\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot (1-x) [\text{yMg}(\text{OH})_2 + (1-y)\text{MgO}]$, in which x and y are molar fractions, $0.45 \leq x \leq 0.75$, and $0 \leq y \leq 1$, and having a pH higher than 8 and equal to or less than 10. This sludge advantageously comprises at least ~~50%~~ 15% by weight of the calcaro-magnesian compound compared with the dry matter of the sludge before dewatering.